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ABSTRACT

This study provided a comparison between on-campus students in the James M. Farquhar Center for Undergraduate Studies at Nova Southeastern University and their off-campus counterparts, with focus directed to a variety of survey statements associated with the University's compliance with accreditation criteria. On-campus respondents (n=98) and off-campus respondents (n=188; residence of 1 student was not identified) were at near parity in regard to overall levels of satisfaction with academic program and student services. Certainly, off-campus respondents did not indicate any significant disadvantage to residence away from campus. Prior assumptions that the Center needs to continue to expand resources and training activities to improve access to the University's technology-based information resource network were confirmed. Although off-campus students did not express the same level of satisfaction with the University's information infrastructure as their on-campus counterparts, both groups generally expressed satisfaction. It is anticipated that the University's current expenditures for technology and technology-related training will result in greater use and satisfaction with this evolving resource. The survey is attached. (Contains 7 tables and 17 references.) (SLD)

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ED 462 876

STUDENTS IN THE JAMES M. FARQUHAR CENTER FOR UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES RESPOND TO A SATISFACTION SURVEY: A COMPARISON BETWEEN ON-CAMPUS STUDENTS AND OFF-CAMPUS STUDENTS

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Nova Southeastern University
Research and Planning

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Research and Planning
Report 96-14

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report was prepared to assess levels of satisfaction with program and services for students in the James M. Farquhar Center for Undergraduate Studies who were enrolled during Winter Term 1996. Previous activities had focused on a broad assessment of students from all five academic centers with off-campus offerings (N = 12,499). Site personnel returned 287 useable surveys to Research and Planning (On-campus N = 98, Off-campus N = 188, and Unidentified Place of Attendance N = 1) from the population of 3,887 undergraduate students at the University.

Attention was directed to differences between levels of satisfaction from students who attended the majority of their classes on the University's Davie Campus and the immediate Broward County area (on-campus students), and their counterparts who attended the majority of their classes at other locations (off-campus students). Although these comparisons serve as a useful differentiation between on-campus students and off-campus students, it should be recalled that there are multiple sources of data in the University's *Master Plan* (1995) and *Institutional Self-Study Report* (1996) that provide additional information on the practice and efficacy of distance education at the University.

Survey statements were worded using language directly from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools' *Criteria for Accreditation* (1996). Over 98 percent of all statements received a mean rating of 3.0 or greater (1 = Very Dissatisfied to 5 = Very Satisfied), indicating positive satisfaction with academic program and student services. Overall ratings between on-campus students and off-campus students were nearly equal. For approximately 45 percent of all survey statements, off-campus students provided higher mean ratings than on-campus students and for approximately 55 percent of all survey statements, on-campus students provided higher mean ratings than off-campus students.

Comparison of results between on-campus students and off-campus students confirmed the assumption that the University needed to initiate a series of activities to increase access to the University's technology-based information resource infrastructure for off-campus students. Along with the planned University-wide expenditure of over $3.6 million budgeted in Fiscal Year 1996 - 1997 for technology and related capital expenditures, a brief listing of proactive measures that are currently in use by the James M. Farquhar Center for Undergraduate Studies to raise student satisfaction with the information infrastructure to even higher levels was identified.

HIGHLIGHTS

Identification of the Population

- This study represented a broad assessment of students in the James M. Farquhar Center for Undergraduate Studies.
- Florida-based respondents were enrolled in programs offered in the Fort Lauderdale area, Orlando, and Tampa.
- Respondents were also enrolled in programs offered at international locations, including clusters in the Bahamas, Jamaica, and Panama.

Purpose of This Report

- Along with a request for demographic and marketing information, respondents were also queried on their level of satisfaction with issues linked to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools' *Criteria for Accreditation* (1996).
- Over 98 percent of all statements received a mean rating of 3.0 or greater (1 = Very Dissatisfied to 5 = Very Satisfied), indicating positive satisfaction with academic program and student services.
- The summative statement **Overall quality of this academic program** received a higher rating from off-campus respondents (Mean = 4.2) than their on-campus counterparts (Mean = 4.0).

Experience with Technology-Based Instructional Media

Approximately 30 percent of all on-campus respondents and seven percent of all off-campus respondents indicated experience with electronic mail as a technology-based instructional medium.

Reasons for Selecting the University

- For on-campus respondents, the three leading selections were:
  - Type of Programs Available . . . . . 58.2 percent
  - Convenience . . . . . 39.8 percent
  - Small Class Size . . . . . 34.7 percent
- For off-campus respondents, the three leading selections were:
  - Convenience . . . . . 62.2 percent
  - Location . . . . . 51.1 percent
  - Type of Programs Available . . . . . 47.9 percent
- Approximately 15 percent of all on-campus respondents and 50 percent of all off-campus respondents did not select attendance at a college or university as an option had they not attended Nova Southeastern University.

Satisfaction with Program and Services

- Off-campus respondents provided higher mean ratings than their on-campus counterparts for approximately one-half of all survey statements, including statements related to: program orientation, instructional methods, delivery system, interaction with administrative personnel, competency of the faculty, quality of the learning environment, quality of advising, opportunity for intellectual growth, faculty and student interaction, and opportunity for peer interaction.
- On-campus respondents indicated higher levels of satisfaction than off-campus respondents for statements related to the University's technology-based information resource infrastructure. Processes that are currently in place to increase off-campus access to this information infrastructure were identified.

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INTRODUCTION

Background

The University was chartered in 1964 and offered instruction for the first time to 17 graduate students in the 1967 charter class. In an attempt to expand outreach and strengthen fiscal base (*Place of Class Attendance at Nova Southeastern University: Calendar Years 1990 - 1994*, 1996), the University first offered off-campus instruction in 1972, when the field-based Ed.D. Program in Educational Leadership and the Ed.D. Program for Community College Faculty and Administrators were implemented. Soon after, in 1976, undergraduate instruction was offered at the University (*Nova Southeastern University Fact Book*, 1996).

A brief synopsis of the growth of undergraduate education at the University is presented in *Graduates of Nova Southeastern University's Undergraduate Programs Tell Us What They Think About Their Undergraduate Experience* (1996). For this report, it is important to remember that off-campus activities for undergraduate students are not a recent addition to the curriculum. On the contrary, this form of program delivery was fully integrated into the University's last reaffirmation of accreditation process, and these activities were explained to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools' Visiting Team in *Self-Study: 1983 - 1985* (1985, p.49). The James M. Farquhar Center for Undergraduate Studies currently offers instruction throughout Florida and at international clusters in the Bahamas, Jamaica, and Panama (*Off-Campus Program Directory*, 1996).

As part of the current process for reaffirmation of accreditation, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools assembled a Visiting Team at the University in February 1996. This Visiting Team received orientation from University administrators on a variety of issues, including orientation on current distance education activities at the University. Members of this Visiting Team met with students, faculty, and staff at selected off-campus sites throughout Winter Term 1996. These visits were planned to provide an advance framework for the full Visiting Team's presence at the University in October 1996.

Purpose of This Study

Extending the evaluations contained in annual reports, such as *Quality Improvement Plans, Administrative and Educational Support Services: 1994-95* (1995) and *Status Report on Institutional Effectiveness: 1994 - 1995* (1995), Research and Planning, in cooperation with those centers most involved with distance education, prepared a plan (Memorandum from

Tom MacFarland to John Losak, September 22, 1995) to survey both students and graduates as reflected in the following reports:

- Research and Planning Report 96-02; *Graduates of Nova Southeastern University's Undergraduate Programs Tell Us What They Think About Their Undergraduate Experience*.
- Research and Planning Report 96-03; *Place of Class Attendance at Nova Southeastern University: Calendar Years 1990 to 1994*.
- Research and Planning Report 96-05; *Graduates of the Abraham S. Fischler Center for the Advancement of Education Reflect on Their Experience With Nova Southeastern University*.
- Research and Planning Report 96-06; *Graduates of the School of Business and Entrepreneurship Reflect Upon Their Academic Experiences*.
- Research and Planning Report 96-07; *Graduates of the School of Computer and Information Sciences Offer Judgment on Their Experience With Nova Southeastern University*.
- Research and Planning Report 96-08; *South Florida vs. Other Locations: Comparing Student Responses to a Satisfaction Survey*.

Although this report provides another perspective to these analyses, it should be recalled that there are multiple sources of data in the University's *Master Plan* (1995) and *Institutional Self-Study Report* (1996) that provide additional information on the practice and efficacy of distance education at the University.

METHODOLOGY

Survey Development

Survey development was described in full detail in *South Florida vs. Other Locations: Comparing Student Responses to a Satisfaction Survey* (1996). Most demographic selections and marketing-type statements in the survey (Appendix) were specific to the University, and these selections were tested in prior survey activities initiated by Research and Planning. The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools' *Criteria for Accreditation* (1996) and *Guidelines for Planning Distance Learning Activities* (1992) served as major references for the development of most Likert-type survey statements.

Sampling

Population and Invited Sample

The population for the entire survey process consisted of all Winter Term 1996 students enrolled in the five academic centers with distance education programs (N = 12,499; *Research and Planning Weekly Enrollment Report,* April 29, 1996). With specific reference to students enrolled in undergraduate programs offered by the James M. Farquhar Center for Undergraduate Studies (N = 3,887; Research and Planning *Weekly Enrollment Report*, April 29, 1996), site administrators at the following locations were instructed to distribute the survey instrument to students sometime between March 25 to April 25, 1996, depending on local cluster meeting dates:

- Florida
  - Orlando

    Undergraduate Education Program (B.S.) . . . . . N = 51
  - Tampa

    Undergraduate Education Program (B.S.) . . . . . N= 50
    Undergraduate Professional Management Program (B.S.) . . . . . N = 59
- International
  - Bahamas

    Undergraduate Education Program (B.S.) . . . . . N = 20
    Undergraduate Professional Management Program (B.S.) . . . . . N = 83
  - Jamaica

    Undergraduate Professional Management Program (B.S.) . . . . . N = 99
  - Panama

    Undergraduate Professional Management Program (B.S.) . . . . . N = 29

TOTAL . . . . . N = 391

The invited sample also included a sample of students attending class on campus, with this sample approximating the total number of field-based students completing the survey.

Program staff were asked to distribute the survey to campus-based students who were similar to their field-based counterparts in terms of age and other demographic characteristics, if at all possible.

Responding Sample

Site personnel in the James M. Farquhar Center for Undergraduate Studies returned 287 useable surveys to Research and Planning, for a return rate of approximately 50 percent:

- On-campus . . . . . N = 98
- Off-campus . . . . . N =188
- Unidentified . . . . . N = 1

A limitation to this study was that it is not possible to accurately determine the exact percentage of survey return. During survey distribution and return, there were cases where the total number of surveys distributed to students and the completed number of surveys in each packet were not accurately recorded. Although it is not possible to offer a calculation of return percentage, it is reasonable to think that the return percentage is high, since survey completion was an in-class activity, administered by instructors and site personnel.

RESULTS

Demographic Composition of the Responding Sample

Tables 1 to 3 provide demographic information about the responding sample. In regard to contrasts between on-campus students and off-campus students, key findings include the following observations:

- Approximately 75 percent of all on-campus and off-campus respondents were female.
- Approximately 50 percent of all on-campus respondents indicated ethnicity or race as White. In contrast, less than 25 percent of all off-campus respondents indicated ethnicity or race as White.
- The responding sample consisted of nearly 34 percent on-campus students and 66 percent off-campus students. Nearly 30 percent of all respondents attended a cluster location in another country.

Experience with Technology-Based Instructional Media

The experience of survey respondents with technology-based instructional media is presented in Table 4. Approximately 30 percent of all on-campus respondents and seven percent of all off-campus respondents indicated experience with electronic mail as a technology-based instructional medium.

Satisfaction With the University

Survey respondents were also presented with statements that focused on satisfaction with the University. Table 5 summarizes responses to the statement **Why did you decide to attend NSU?** There were noticeable differences in rank order of response between on-campus respondents and off-campus respondents for the three leading responses:

- For on-campus respondents, the three leading selections were:
  - Type of Programs Available . . . . . 58.2 percent
  - Convenience . . . . . 39.8 percent
  - Small Class Size . . . . . 34.7 percent
- For off-campus respondents, the three leading selections were:
  - Convenience . . . . . 62.2 percent
  - Location . . . . . 51.1 percent
  - Type of Programs Available . . . . . 47.9 percent

Survey respondents were also asked to identify alternates if they had not attended the University. Table 6 compares selections by on-campus respondents to off-campus respondents. Approximately 15 percent of all on-campus respondents and 50 percent of all off-campus respondents did not select attendance at a college or university as an option had they not attended Nova Southeastern University.

Academic Programs and Student Services

The survey included statements that were directly based on accreditation criteria found in the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools' *Criteria for Accreditation* (1996). Descriptive

statistics for these statements are presented in Table 7, comparing on-campus respondents to their off-campus counterparts. Over 98 percent of all statements received a mean rating of 3.0 or greater (1 = Very Dissatisfied to 5 = Very Satisfied), indicating positive satisfaction with academic program and student services.

Overall ratings between on-campus students and off-campus students were nearly equal. For approximately 45 percent of all survey statements, off-campus students provided higher mean ratings than on-campus students and for approximately 55 percent of all survey statements, on-campus students provided higher mean ratings than off-campus students. The highest rating (Mean = 4.3) was offered by off-campus respondents for **Length of the academic program, Length of the individual courses, Opportunity for intellectual growth**, and **Opportunity for peer interaction**.

Table 1

Gender

	On-Campus		Off-Campus	
Gender	**N**	**%**	**N**	**%**
Female	76	77.6	137	72.9
Male	22	22.4	48	25.5
Unidentified	---	---	3	1.6
Total	98		188	

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Table 2

Ethnicity or Race

	On-Campus		Off-Campus	
Ethnicity or Race	**N**	**%**	**N**	**%**
African-American	22	22.4	47	25.0
American Indian or Alaskan Native	1	1.0	1	0.5
Asian or Pacific Islander	---	---	2	1.1
Hispanic	21	21.4	16	8.5
White	45	45.9	42	22.3
Other	7	7.1	76	40.4
Unidentified	2	2.0	4	2.1
Total	98		188	

Table 3

Majority Place of Class Attendance

	N	%
Davie Campus or East Campus	92	32.1
Cluster Location in Broward, Dade, Monroe, or Palm Beach County	6	2.1
Cluster Location in Another Florida County	59	20.6
Cluster Location in Another State	--	--
Cluster Location in Another Country	79	27.5
Other	50	17.4
Missing	1	0.3
Total	287	

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Table 4

Experience with Technology-Based Instructional Media

	On-Campus		Off-Campus	
Response	N	%	N	%
Audiobridge	2	2.0	---	---
Compressed Video	9	9.2	11	5.9
Electronic Mail	30	30.6	14	7.4
Electronic Classroom	6	6.1	7	3.7
Other	5	5.1	26	13.8

Table 5

Frequency of Response to Reasons for Attending Nova Southeastern University

	On-Campus		Off-Campus	
Reasons for attending NSU	**N**	**%**	**N**	**%**
Academic Reputation	29	29.6	63	33.5
Admissions Standards	8	8.2	33	17.6
Advice of Counselors and Teachers	7	7.1	17	9.0
Availability of Scholarships or Financial Aid	10	10.2	19	10.1
Convenience	39	39.8	117	62.2
Cost	1	1.0	23	12.2
Location	33	33.7	96	51.1
Small Class Size	34	34.7	57	30.3
Social Atmosphere	3	3.1	30	16.0
Type of Programs Available	57	58.2	90	47.9
Other	20	20.4	19	10.1

Table 6

Frequency of Response to What Survey Respondents Would Have Done if They had not Attended Nova Southeastern University

	On-Campus		Off-Campus	
Response	**N**	**%**	**N**	**%**
Attended another private college or university in South Florida	28	28.6	21	11.2
Attended another private college or university in Florida but not in South Florida	2	2.0	18	9.6
Attended a private college or university in another state	7	7.1	10	5.3
Attended a state college or university in South Florida	41	41.8	18	9.6
Attended state college or university in Florida, but not in South Florida	3	3.1	14	7.4
Attended a state college or university in another state	1	1.0	13	6.9
Not attended a college or university	4	4.1	22	11.7
Other	1	1.0	51	27.1
Unidentified	11	11.2	21	11.2
Total	98		188	

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Table 7

Ratings of Selected Statements Related to Academic Programs and Student Services:

	On-Campus			Off-Campus		
Statement	N	Mean	SD	N	Mean	SD
Clarity of written admission policies . . .	92	3.9	0.9	175	3.9	0.9
Clarity of written policy on transfer of credit from other institutions	87	3.6	1.1	173	3.7	1.2
Clarity of written completion requirements	90	3.9	0.9	172	4.0	1.0
Clarity of written curricular offerings, as identified in program catalog	90	3.8	0.9	173	3.9	0.9
Program orientation	83	3.5	1.0	169	3.9	1.0
Length of the academic program	91	4.1	0.9	178	4.3	0.8
Length of the individual courses	94	4.1	0.9	181	4.3	0.8
Instructional methods	92	3.9	0.9	179	4.2	0.8
Delivery system	85	3.8	0.9	169	4.0	1.0
Course registration activities	91	3.7	1.1	177	3.6	1.2
Published grading policy	86	3.8	1.0	168	3.7	1.2
Interaction with administrative personnel	88	3.6	1.2	181	3.7	1.2
Competency of the faculty	90	3.8	1.0	179	4.2	0.9
Quality of the learning environment . . .	93	4.0	0.9	184	4.1	0.9
Process for assigning students to advisors	83	3.3	1.2	142	3.4	1.2
Quality of advising	87	3.1	1.3	164	3.5	1.2
Applied nature of thesis, practicum, or dissertation	48	3.6	0.8	100	3.8	0.9
Opportunity for intellectual growth	89	4.1	0.9	178	4.3	0.8
Faculty and student interaction	90	3.9	1.0	179	4.1	0.9

Table 7 (Continued)

Ratings of Selected Statements Related to Academic Programs and Student Services:

	On-Campus			Off-Campus		
Statement	N	Mean	SD	N	Mean	SD
Exposure to research scholars	62	3.5	1.1	137	3.4	1.2
Opportunity for peer interaction	86	3.9	0.9	181	4.3	0.9
Clarity of program catalog	89	3.8	0.8	188	3.9	1.0
Correctness of student records (including transcripts)	85	3.8	0.9	162	3.4	1.3
Availability of library and learning resource materials	92	3.9	1.0	168	3.2	1.3
Adequacy of library and learning resource materials	93	3.8	1.1	159	3.2	1.3
Orientation program relative to library services	81	3.4	1.0	161	3.3	1.2
Training in access to information in electronic and other formats	81	3.4	1.1	144	3.1	1.2
Availability of computing resources	83	3.6	0.9	150	3.1	1.4
Adequacy of computing resources	81	3.8	1.0	146	3.1	1.3
Access to information through technology	81	3.8	0.9	155	3.2	1.2
Instructional support services (e.g., educational equipment and specialized facilities such as laboratories, audio visual and duplicating services)	75	3.5	1.1	142	3.2	1.3
Infusion of information technology into the curricula	74	3.7	0.9	143	3.6	1.1
Provisions for training in the use of technology	72	3.6	0.9	130	3.4	1.2
Student development services	61	3.5	0.9	129	3.4	1.2

Table 7 (Continued)

Ratings of Selected Statements Related to Academic Programs and Student Services:

	On-Campus			Off-Campus		
Statement	**N**	**Mean**	**SD**	**N**	**Mean**	**SD**
Counseling and career development . . .	68	3.6	0.9	139	3.3	1.2
Remedial services available	54	3.7	0.9	110	3.3	1.1
Student government opportunities	46	3.5	0.9	81	3.0	1.2
Student behavior policies and procedures	58	3.7	1.0	117	3.6	1.1
Financial aid services	75	3.5	1.2	115	3.1	1.3
Health services	42	3.3	0.9	68	2.8	1.2
Alumni affairs	34	3.2	0.9	76	3.1	1.1
Refund policies when withdrawing from courses	53	3.5	1.2	105	3.3	1.2
Adequacy of physical resources in classrooms	77	3.6	1.0	161	3.6	1.1
Safety and security of classroom buildings and the learning environment	88	3.8	1.0	178	3.9	1.0
Overall quality of this academic program	88	4.0	0.8	179	4.2	0.9

Rating Scale

1	Very Dissatisfied	4	Satisfied
2	Dissatisfied	5	Very Satisfied
3	Neutral, Neither Agree nor Disagree	NA	Not Applicable
		U	Unknown or Unable to Answer

A caution should be made that when viewing these statistics, nearly all respondents offered a numerical response to statements such as **Clarity of written admission policies** (On-campus N = 92; Off-campus N = 175), **Length of the academic program** (On-campus N = 91; Off-campus N = 178), and **Quality of the learning environment** (On-campus N = 93; Off-campus N = 184). Responses were not made at the same level to **Student government opportunities** (On-campus N = 46; Off-campus N = 81) and **Health services** (On-campus

N = 42; Off-campus N = 68). Although criteria related to student government and health services may be considered important by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (*Criteria for Accreditation*, 1996), adult students (the mean age at time of graduation for graduates of the University's undergraduate programs is 33 years; *Nova Southeastern University's Graduates: July 1, 1990 to June 30, 1994*, 1995) obviously did not share in this level of concern and frequently selected *Not Applicable* or *Unknown or Unable to Answer* to these and similar statements that may more appropriately apply to traditional students.

DISCUSSION

As first introduced in *South Florida vs. Other Locations: Comparing Student Responses to a Satisfaction Survey* (1996), the results of comparisons between on-campus students and off-campus students offer vivid contrast to the Southern Association's traditional vision of the many benefits to on-campus residence. Off-campus respondents provided higher mean ratings than their on-campus counterparts for approximately one-half of all survey statements, including statements related to: program orientation, instructional methods, delivery system, interaction with administrative personnel, competency of the faculty, quality of the learning environment, quality of advising, opportunity for intellectual growth, faculty and student interaction, and opportunity for peer interaction. In contrast, on-campus respondents indicated higher levels of satisfaction than off-campus respondents for approximately one-half of all survey statements, including statements related to the University's technology-based information resource infrastructure.

Clearly, in terms of satisfaction with access to educational opportunities, off-campus respondents did not perceive any significant disadvantage to residence away from campus. Instead, off-campus respondents indicated positive levels of satisfaction for nearly all statements associated with this study. The summative statement **Overall quality of this academic program** received a higher rating from off-campus respondents (Mean = 4.2) than their on-campus counterparts (Mean = 3.0).

Although all statements received a positive rating, a close examination of Table 7 suggests that it may be useful to examine differences between on-campus respondents and off-campus respondents regarding the University's technology-based information resource infrastructure. Generally, on-campus respondents indicated higher levels of satisfaction with technology opportunities and access to information through technology than their off-campus counterparts.

Technology and the development of the University's information resource infrastructure received considerable attention in the *Master Plan* (1995) and the *Institutional Self-Study Report* (1996), and for the last few years, the University has vigorously upgraded this infrastructure. In 1994, the University spent nearly $2.5 million on the computing infrastructure, with over $1.5 million devoted exclusively to the purchase of computing

equipment (*Institutional Self-Study Report*; 1996, p.269). The University continues to support and upgrade the computing infrastructure, with over $3.6 million budgeted in Fiscal Year 1996 - 1997 for technology and related capital expenditures. Including payroll, benefits, network expenses, and technology-related capital expenditures, the University's Fiscal Year 1996 - 1997 budget includes over $8.5 million for academic and administrative computing.

As identified in *South Florida vs. Other Locations: Comparing Student Responses to a Satisfaction Survey* (1996), the University uses a variety of means to increase student use of the technology-based information resource infrastructure. Current activities include the following:

- The University's Electronic Library was recently redesigned as a Web page. Now, even students with low-end machines and minimal training in the use of the Internet can enjoy the simplicity of text-based access to the many databases and information resources available at this valuable information resource, URL <http://localhost/var/local/html/el/index.html>.

- Telephone contact hours for the Electronic Library and the Academic Computing help desk have also been expanded, allowing all students, including students in the western United States, to receive real-time assistance on weeknights.

Technology training opportunities specifically allocated for students, staff, and faculty in the James M. Farquhar Center for Undergraduate Studies have also been enhanced in a variety of ways:

- The Center requires attendance at an online training session during the new student orientation program offered on the Davie Campus.

- Campus-based personnel now train site coordinators in use of the Center's information resource infrastructure. Using a "train-the-trainer" process, site coordinators then use these experiences to offer technology-related training to off-campus students.

- A Computing Technology Specialist is responsible for working with the faculty to integrate technology into the curriculum and to assist faculty with student training.

It is important to emphasize that the above activities are currently in place—they are not part of a future plan. It is also important to emphasize that, overall, off-campus students were basically in parity to their on-campus counterparts regarding levels of satisfaction with academic program and student services. Improvements to the technology infrastructure should further enhance levels of student satisfaction.

SUMMARY

This study provided a comparison between on-campus students in the James M. Farquhar Center for Undergraduate Studies and their off-campus counterparts, with focus directed to a variety of survey statements associated with the University's compliance with accreditation criteria. On-campus respondents and off-campus respondents were in near parity in regard to overall levels of satisfaction with academic program and student services. Certainly, off-campus respondents did not indicate any significant disadvantage to residence away from campus.

Prior assumptions that the Center needs to continue to expand resources and training activities to improve access to the University's technology-based information resource network were confirmed. Although off-campus students did not express the same level of satisfaction with the University's information infrastructure as their on-campus counterparts, both groups of students generally indicated positive levels of satisfaction. It is anticipated that the University's current expenditure of funds for technology and technology-related training will result in greater use and satisfaction with this evolving resource.

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Nova Southeastern University

SURVEY OF STUDENTS

Purpose of This Survey:

As part of a continuous process of evaluation of academic programs and student services, the purpose of this survey is to determine your general level of satisfaction with your experience at the University. Results will be used to help the University provide an improved educational experience for future students.

Survey Methodology:

This survey is to be distributed to a sample of students who attend class sometime between March 25 to April 25, 1996. If by chance you receive this survey in multiple classes, please complete this survey only once.

SECTION I: DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

Instructions: Check the appropriate response(s) for the following identifiers

Academic Center

____ School of Psychology
____ Center for Undergraduate Studies
____ Center for the Advancement of Education
____ School of Business and Entrepreneurship
____ School of Computer and Information Sciences

Degree level for your current program

____ Bachelor's
____ Master's
____ Specialist
____ Doctoral
____ Other _____

Gender

____ Female
____ Male

Ethnic Group

____ African-American
____ American Indian or Alaskan Native
____ Asian or Pacific Islander
____ Hispanic
____ White
____ Other _____

Where do you attend the majority of your classes?

____ Davie Campus or East Campus
____ North Miami Beach Campus
____ Cluster Location in Broward, Dade, Monroe, or Palm Beach County
____ Cluster Location in Another Florida County
____ Cluster Location in Another State
____ Cluster Location in Another Country
____ Other _____

If you have received technology-based instruction in any of your courses, which media have you experienced? ***Check all selections that apply.***

____ Audiobridge
____ Compressed Video
____ Electronic Mail
____ Electronic Classroom
____ Other _____

Excluding courses this term, how many courses have you completed in this academic program at the University?

____ 0 courses
____ 1 course
____ 2 courses
____ 3 courses
____ 4 courses
____ 5 courses
____ 6 courses
____ 7 courses
____ 8 courses
____ 9 or more courses

Please turn to the other side ➡

Why did you decide to attend NSU? Check all selections that apply.

____ Academic Reputation
____ Admissions Standards
____ Advice of Counselors and Teachers
____ Availability of Scholarships or Financial Aid
____ Convenience
____ Cost
____ Location
____ Small Class Size
____ Social Atmosphere
____ Type of Programs Available
____ Other_____

If you had <u>not</u> attended NSU, would you have attended:

____ Another private college or university in South Florida
____ Another private college or university in Florida, but not in South Florida
____ A private college or university in another state
____ A state college or university in South Florida
____ A state college or university in Florida, but not in South Florida
____ A state college or university in another state
____ Not attended a college or university
____ Other_____

SECTION II: ACADEMIC PROGRAMS AND STUDENT SERVICES

Please review the following rating scale and then mark or circle your reaction to each statement:

RATING SCALE

1	Very Dissatisfied	4	Satisfied
2	Dissatisfied	5	Very Satisfied
3	Neutral, Neither Agree nor Disagree	NA	Not Applicable
		U	Unknown or Unable to Answer

1 2 3 4 5 NA U	Clarity of written admission policies
1 2 3 4 5 NA U	Clarity of written policy on transfer of credit from other institutions
1 2 3 4 5 NA U	Clarity of written completion requirements
1 2 3 4 5 NA U	Clarity of written curricular offerings, as identified in program catalog
1 2 3 4 5 NA U	Program orientation
1 2 3 4 5 NA U	Length of the academic program
1 2 3 4 5 NA U	Length of the individual courses
1 2 3 4 5 NA U	Instructional methods
1 2 3 4 5 NA U	Delivery system
1 2 3 4 5 NA U	Course registration activities
1 2 3 4 5 NA U	Published grading policy
1 2 3 4 5 NA U	Interaction with administrative personnel
1 2 3 4 5 NA U	Competency of the faculty
1 2 3 4 5 NA U	Quality of the learning environment
1 2 3 4 5 NA U	Process for assigning students to advisors
1 2 3 4 5 NA U	Quality of advising
1 2 3 4 5 NA U	Applied nature of thesis, practicum, or dissertation
1 2 3 4 5 NA U	Opportunity for intellectual growth
1 2 3 4 5 NA U	Faculty and student interaction
1 2 3 4 5 NA U	Exposure to research scholars
1 2 3 4 5 NA U	Opportunity for peer interaction
1 2 3 4 5 NA U	Clarity of program catalog
1 2 3 4 5 NA U	Correctness of student records (including transcripts)
1 2 3 4 5 NA U	Availability of library and learning resource materials
1 2 3 4 5 NA U	Adequacy of library and learning resource materials
1 2 3 4 5 NA U	Orientation program relative to library services
1 2 3 4 5 NA U	Training in access to information in electronic and other formats
1 2 3 4 5 NA U	Availability of computing resources
1 2 3 4 5 NA U	Adequacy of computing resources
1 2 3 4 5 NA U	Access to information through technology
1 2 3 4 5 NA U	Instructional support services (e.g., educational equipment and specialized facilities such as laboratories, audio visual and duplicating services)
1 2 3 4 5 NA U	Infusion of information technology into the curricula
1 2 3 4 5 NA U	Provisions for training in the use of technology
1 2 3 4 5 NA U	Student development services
1 2 3 4 5 NA U	Counseling and career development
1 2 3 4 5 NA U	Remedial services available
1 2 3 4 5 NA U	Student government opportunities
1 2 3 4 5 NA U	Student behavior policies and procedures
1 2 3 4 5 NA U	Financial aid services
1 2 3 4 5 NA U	Health services
1 2 3 4 5 NA U	Alumni affairs
1 2 3 4 5 NA U	Refund policies when withdrawing from courses
1 2 3 4 5 NA U	Adequacy of physical resources in classrooms
1 2 3 4 5 NA U	Safety and security of classroom buildings and the learning environment
1 2 3 4 5 NA U	Overall quality of this academic program

For tracking purposes only, please list:

_____ The number of this course

_____ Today's date

03/96

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